

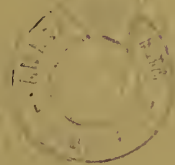
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BLACKBURN
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
for 1956.

R. C. WEBSTER.
Medical Officer of Health.

G. R. WHITE.
Public Health Inspector.
Meat and Food Inspector.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR 1956.

Chairman of the Council:

H. RYDEN, Esq., M.B.E., J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

D. SMITH, Esq., J.P.

Chairman of the Health Committee:

W. H. WIDDERS, Esq.

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Parish.

Councillor.

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Tockholes	G. DUCKWORTH, Esq.
Wilpshire	H. RYDEN, Esq., M.B.E., J.P.
Yate & Pickup Bank	J. YATES, Esq., J.P.

Medical Officer of Health:

R. C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Public Health Inspector:
Meat and Food Inspector:

G. R. WHITE, M.A.P.H.I.

42 Wellington Street (St. John's),
Blackburn.

2nd December, 1957.

TO: THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
BLACKBURN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1956.

Towards the end of the year steps were taken to set up a Child Welfare Clinic in Mellor, to meet the requirements particularly of the new housing estate which had grown up in that area. This project owed much to the interest shown by Miss Peters, who was for many years Health Visitor in the Blackburn Rural District, and has now, on her marriage, left the area in which she had done many years of good work.

The health of the district during the year was satisfactory. The report of the Senior Public Health Inspector makes good reading, recording as it does the many improvements which have been made since 1949. A rural district has very special difficulties in such matters as sewerage schemes, water supplies and house building, and it is very satisfactory to note the great progress made in these three respects, and this notwithstanding the continuing financial stringency.

I thank all my fellow officials and in particular the Clerk of the Council and Mr. White, the Senior Public Health Inspector, for their continuing co-operation throughout the year, and I would express to yourself, Mr. Chairman, and to the members of the authority, my thanks for the interest and consideration shown me throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

R. C. WEBSTER.

Medical Officer of Health to the
Blackburn Rural District.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF

THE AREA

Area in Acres	19,469
Rateable Value (31st March, 1957)	£133,817
Estimated Product of ld. Rate	£537
Population, Census 1951	13,245
Resident Population, mid-1956 (Registrar-General's Estimate)	13,620
Death Rate per 1,000 of the Population	14.2
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the Population	11.6

Blackburn Rural District lies to the North, West and South of the County Borough of Blackburn. The larger parishes, which are adjacent to Blackburn, are urban in character, although they still retain their separate community life. Employment in these parishes is chiefly paper making, cotton weaving and spinning. The rest of the area is dotted with small villages situated in either the picturesque and fertile valley of the Ribble or in the bleak moorland areas South of Blackburn. Most of this area is given over to pasture and meadow land, with some 360 farms devoted entirely to stock raising and the production of milk.

In the pre-war years, there was a tendency for town dwellers to move into the rural areas, and, during the year 1956, 3 private Housing Estates were opened up, to provide over 300 dwelling-houses. During the last 25 years, the population of the district has increased by 21%.

In the post-war years, the Council have developed Housing Estates in parishes where industrial employment is available. Water-mains, sewers and Sewage Works have been extended and improved to serve these Estates, also to provide for private development and to ensure the most modern amenities for present and future residents of the district.

Vital Statistics

There were 151 live births and 5 still births registered during 1956, and 200 deaths from all causes. The birth rate decreased from 12.0 to 11.6 per 1,000 population (England and Wales 15.7). The death rate increased from 12.9 to 14.2 per 1,000 population (England and Wales 11.7). The low birth rate and the slightly above average death rate is explained by the fact that much of the population is made up of retired persons and that there are 2 Hospitals in the area, 1 for mental defectives and 1 for epileptics, accommodating over 2,000 patients.

The main causes of death were heart disease, cancer and vascular disease of the nervous system.

Infectious Disease

There was a very low figure of 113 cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year. The largest numbers were of Measles (52) and Whooping Cough (34). It would appear from school attendance returns that many children reported as absent because of Measles and Whooping Cough are not officially notified. There were only 3 cases of Scarlet Fever, and these were mild in type. Of 12 cases of Dysentery notified, 10 were institutional.

Tuberculosis

There were 8 new cases notified in 1956, compared with 10 in 1955. 7 of these were pulmonary in type (4 females - 3 males). There was 1 death in 1956, and this came to light as a result of a post-mortem examination. At the end of December, there were 66 cases on the register, as compared with 58 for 1955.

Housing

306 houses have been erected by the Council since the end of the war, and, at the close of the year, there were no houses in course of erection. An examination of the applications for Council Houses reveals that the Housing Programme has caught up with most priority cases.

Water Supplies

The Public Health Inspector points out that 9% of the houses in the district have no piped supplies of water, and, having regard to the special difficulties of a rural area with many isolated houses, this is a satisfactory over-all picture. There are, however, some areas where the position is unsatisfactory, namely, the parish of Tockholes, which has no piped supply, and parts of the parishes of Livesey and Pleasington, where, although they have piped water, the private supplies fail during extreme drought. One cannot see that it is possible to bring public mains to some of these places at any reasonable cost.

National Assistance Act, 1948

Notices were served on one aged person, informing him of the Council's intention to secure a Court Order to require his admission to Queen's Park Hospital, but there was no necessity to pursue the action, he finally agreed to enter Hospital.

Local Health Services

The Public Health Services provided by the Lancashire County Council are controlled locally by Divisional Health Committees composed of local representatives. Blackburn Rural District lies in Health Division No.5, and the office of the Medical Officer of Health is undertaken together with that of Divisional Medical Officer, who operates both the County Council's Public Health and School Medical Services.

The Nursing Staff includes Health Visitors, School Nurses, Midwives and District Nurses. The provision of Clinics for a rural area, with a scattered population, presents special difficulties. 3 of the larger parishes have Child Welfare Clinics and Specialist Clinics are available in adjacent urban areas.

Ambulance Service - The area is adequately covered by ambulances from Great Harwood, Darwen and Blackburn.

Child Welfare Clinics - Where mothers may attend with their children for medical examination and for the purchase of infant welfare foods, are held as follows:-

Feniscowles (Mission Hall)	Tuesday afternoons (2.p.m.)
Mellor (Baptist Church Hall)	Alternate Wednesday afternoons (2.p.m.)
Whalley (Methodist School)	Monday afternoons (2.p.m.)
Darwen (Civic Health Centre, Union Street)	Monday and Thursday afternoons (2.p.m.)

Specialist Treatment - Facilities are available for Specialist examination and treatment of children suffering from eye defects, diseases of ear, nose and throat, orthopaedic defects, for treatment by artificial sunlight or child guidance. Children are first seen at Child Welfare or Minor Ailment Clinics or at School Medical Inspections and the appropriate arrangements are made.

Midwives

The Midwives serving the area are as follows:-

Miss F. I. Grundy, District Nurses' Home, Branch Road, Mellor	Mellor 313
Miss M. I Lytle, 19 Calder Avenue, Billington	Whalley 3113
District Nurses' Home, 58/62 Bolton Road, Darwen	Darwen 1352

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1956

Vital Statistics for the Year 1956

(Population - Registrar-General's Estimate, mid-1956: 13,620)

	Total	Males	Females
Live Births - Legitimate	146	73	73
Illegitimate	5	3	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	151	76	75
		Blackburn R.D.C.	England & Wales
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated Population, mid-1956		11.6	15.7
Still Births per 1,000 total births		32.0	23.0
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated Population		14.2	11.7
Deaths from puerperal causes -			
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis			Nil
Other maternal causes			Nil
Total Maternal mortality			Nil
Death Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			Nil
Death Rate of infants under one year of age -			
All infants per 1,000 live births			20
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			20
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil
Death Rate of infants under four weeks of age -			
All infants per 1,000 live births			20
Death Rate from Cancer per 1,000 of estimated Population			1.98
Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 of estimated Population			0.07
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			27
Deaths from Measles (all ages)			Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)			Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>All Causes</u>	84	116	200
1. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	-	1	1
2. Other Tuberculosis diseases	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic diseases	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	1	-	1
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective diseases	-	2	2
10. Malignant neoplasm stomach	2	4	6
11. " " lung	1	-	1
12. " " breast	-	4	4
13. " " uterus	-	2	2
14. " " others	7	7	14
15. Leukaemia	-	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	1	1
17. Lesions of nervous system	8	18	26
18. Coronary disease, Angina	16	8	24
19. Hypertension with Heart disease	2	1	3
20. Other Heart diseases	12	29	41
21. Other circulatory diseases	-	4	4
22. Influenza	1	-	1
23. Pneumonia	4	6	10
24. Bronchitis	5	1	6
25. Other respiratory diseases	-	2	2
26. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	5	1	6
27. Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	-	2	2
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	-	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortions	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	1	1
32. Other diseases	14	16	30
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
34. All other accidents	1	5	6
35. Suicide	-	1	1
36. Homicide	-	-	-

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	Total cases at all ages												25 and over	Age unknown
	Under													
	1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-24						
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Scarlet Fever	3	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Measles	52	-	3	7	26	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Whooping Cough	34	1	1	5	2	13	5	-	-	1	2	1	2	
Acute Pneumonia	7	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	1	1	
Erysipelas	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Dysentery	12	-	1	-	-	-	1	3	7	-	-	-	-	
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Meningococcal Infection	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	
Totals	113	1	6	12	8	28	6	4	16	3				

Tuberculosis

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1956

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-14	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15-24	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-44	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-64	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
<hr/>								
Totals	3	4	1	0	0	1	0	0
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	
	7		1		1		0	

One case of Tuberculosis, which had not been notified, came to light on a post-mortem examination.

New Housing

Local Authority Houses

Position at 1st January, 1956

Pre-war - 80

Post-war - 306

Post-war Housing Programme, Total Proposed Houses 346

Houses erected by Local Authority during 1956 Nil

Houses under construction by Local Authority at end of 1956 Nil

Houses erected by private enterprise

Post-war to January, 1956 110

Completed during 1956 46

42 Wellington Street (St. John's),
Blackburn.

November, 1957.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my eighth Annual Report, which covers the work of the Health Department for the year 1956.

I think it is appropriate to refer in this report to a document, which was presented by the County Medical Officer to the Lancashire County Council in 1949, i.e. The Second Re-inspection of the Blackburn Rural District. This report, comprising 29 pages, referred to improvements which had been made by the Council in the previous 20 years to the sanitary circumstances of the area and listed many recommendations for further improvement. I am pleased to be able to record that, since that report was published, most of the recommendations have either been carried out or are already under-way. Much progress has been made in the development of sewerage schemes, rural water supplies and the building of new houses. Economic difficulties have, of necessity, caused financial brakes to be applied to a number of schemes, but I doubt whether much criticism could be made to-day of the adequacy of the services administered by the Council.

Reference should also be made to the willingness of Managements to carry out improvements to reduce smoke emissions from their factories and to improve sanitary and working conditions for their employees. Tradesmen alike have also readily modernised their shops and improved conditions in the handling of food.

A commencement was made during the year on the closure or demolition of unfit houses and a number of families were re-housed. Many poor type houses are put up for sale on vacation by their tenants and new owner-occupiers are reconditioning such dwellings.

Once again, may I thank the Officials and Staff for their co-operation during the year, and to the Chairman of the Council and the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their interest, help and appreciation.

Yours faithfully,

G. R. WHITE.

Public Health Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies

There are 3,864 inhabited houses in the area, and, of these, only 332 (9%) have no internally piped supply - the majority being isolated properties, which could not be provided with piped water at any reasonable cost. A further 10% of the houses have private or estate piped supplies, the remaining 81% being supplied from public water mains.

The Council is not a 'statutory water undertaking', water being supplied by neighbouring authorities. Numerous large extensions to water mains have been carried out since the war, but the Council have had to pay the cost and guarantee the revenue to the water suppliers.

Routine sampling of water from public mains is carried out and occasional checks are made of wells supplying private dwellings. During the year, 10 samples from public mains were submitted for bacteriological analysis, 8 of which were satisfactory. The 2 unsatisfactory samples were collected following complaints by householders that the water was dirty. It was found that repair work to water mains had been carried out just prior to the collection of samples. 10 samples of water from private supplies were analysed and only 1 sample was found to be unsatisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage

There are 6 separate Sewage Disposal Works in the area, serving the major parts of the parishes of Livesey, Billington, Pleasington and Wilpshire and parts of Salesbury, Clayton-le-Dale, Eccleshill and Balderstone. Langho Colony is also served by these Works. The method of treatment adopted is by preliminary sedimentation, septic tanks and sprinkler filtration.

A comprehensive scheme for extensions and new Sewage Disposal Works was prepared by the Council's Consultant Engineer in 1947 and approved in principle by the Council. The greater part of these improvements have either been completed or are in progress.

Billington etc. Sewerage Scheme

The sewers and 3 Sewage Works, which serve the parishes of Billington and Wilpshire, are considerably overloaded. During 1956, much progress was made in a scheme to provide for the abandonment of the 3 Works and the construction of a new combined Works. Parts of the parishes of Clayton-le-Dale and Salesbury, which are not served, are being connected by over 3 miles of sewer to the new Works, and many pail-closets and septic tanks will be abolished. The cost of this scheme will exceed £100,000.

Mellor Sewerage Scheme

Stage 1 of the Council's re-sewering scheme was completed during 1954 and the bulk of the Mellor sewage is now satisfactorily treated.

Stage 2 (estimated cost £26,500) of the Mellor re-sewering scheme, provided for low level sewers, a pumping station and rising main to serve the Mellor Brook area. Tenders have been invited for the performance of this work, together with the sewerage of Branch Road, Mellor, which will also serve properties in Salmesbury, in the Preston Rural District. An agreement has been concluded with the Preston Rural District, which provides for the sharing of the costs of this arrangement.

Public Cleansing Service

General Comments

The collection of house refuse in any area is hard and uncongenial work and in a rural area the cleansing staff have to walk many miles per day, often in adverse conditions of weather. In spite of this, and higher wages obtainable in industry, the householders in this area do enjoy a frequent and hygienic service. The efficiency of the service can be judged by the absence of any justifiable complaints by the public during the last few years and by the value of materials salvaged from the house refuse.

The Council operate modern refuse collecting vehicles, designed for municipal work, and the baling of waste paper is carried out with the use of an electrically operated machine. The workmen are provided with 3 sets of overalls each year and are also issued with donkey jackets and waterproof coats and leggings for inclement weather.

This progressive policy of the Council is attracting the employment of a better type of workman and it is hoped that some improvement can soon be made in the facilities for dining and washing at the Depot.

It would be wrong to assume from this report that everything works smoothly in the Cleansing Department. In times of extreme weather men leave the employment and for a few weeks the team efficiency of each wagon is only maintained by the 'older hands'. During holiday weeks and Bank Holidays, the collection of refuse is discontinued, and, when the operatives return, they have practically double the amount of refuse to collect in a normal week.

Refuse Collection

The Council have 3 Dennis, side-loading refuse wagons, the oldest being purchased in 1948, and the work of the Department is assisted by a Ford Thames 2/3 tons truck.

In 1952, the Council instituted a weekly collection of refuse in all the most populated parts of the area, in lieu of a fortnightly collection, and, as new development necessitates alteration of schedules, further improvements are being made in a few remaining areas where a fortnightly collection is in force. The refuse bins are collected from the back door-steps of all houses, emptied into the wagons and returned to their position. This is the most hygienic method of collection - in some towns, the bins are emptied in the back-yards into skeps, which are then carried and emptied into the refuse wagon - or the duty of carrying the dustbin to the kerbside and collection when emptied falls on the householder.

7 Contracts with private collectors, involving 135 houses, are still in operation in scattered localities. In all these cases, the roads are so bad that they are only traversable by farm tractors.

Refuse Disposal

There are 3 refuse tips in use in the area and a system of semi-controlled tipping is in operation. The term 'semi-controlled' is used because the supply of soil for adequate covering is almost unobtainable in this locality. Daily covering of refuse tips is effected by the use of furnace clinker from local factories.

Nightsoil Collection and Disposal

During the year, there was a reduction of 25 pail-closets, arising from conversion schemes, but the Council still collect nightsoil from 478 cottages scattered over the district. For many years, the Council have contributed a maximum grant of £15 towards pail-closet conversions and the new sewerage schemes in progress will assist in further reducing the total number to be collected. In my contacts with colleagues in other rural areas, I have been surprised to find so many authorities who do not provide a nightsoil collection service.

The Dennis Cesspool Emptier, with nightsoil attachment, which has been in use for 3 years, gives excellent service. The pail-closets are emptied during the day and the contents disposed of through sewer manholes. The labour situation makes it difficult to obtain men willing to undertake such work, and, had the Council not purchased this machine and abandoned the old method of using a wooden tank on a lorry, I am sure the service would have broken down.

Emptying of Cesspools

There are several hundred cesspools and septic tanks in the area and only a very few receive regular attention by householders. During the year, 54 septic tanks were emptied, but, in almost every case, the request for emptying arose because coke filters and effluent drains became blocked. If septic tanks were emptied yearly, this would ensure freedom from trouble. The Council do not undertake this service free of charge, but the cost is low compared with the task undertaken (£2 for removal of 600 gallons and an additional £1 for further loads).

Salvaged Materials

There was an increase of 29 tons in the quantity of salvage reclaimed during the year. Most of this increase was due to efforts of the cleansing staff to sort out tins from house refuse on the tips, 26 tons of domestic food tins having been reclaimed. It has been most noticeable during the last year or two, that many householders have discontinued keeping waste paper separate and the workmen have to sort out much of the waste paper from the refuse.

The value of salvaged materials remained static during the year, and, with the additional tonnage, there was an increase of £244 in revenue. (Total revenue £2,380.) During the year, local authorities were warned that the yield of waste paper was exceeding the demand, and, consequently, no extra efforts were instituted to increase collections. Many local authorities were unable to dispose of collections - this can be taken as a sign that it may not always be possible for this Council to dispose of its waste paper.

At the beginning of the year, there were 50 bins sited in various parts of the district for the collection of kitchen waste. The bins have been in continual use for over 14 years, and, as the bins become unfit for use, they are not replaced. Many of the bins have been transferred from streets to factory canteens, catering establishments and greengrocers' shops.

Provision of Dustbins

The efficiency of a refuse collection service depends, to a large extent, on the type of dustbin provided. It is quite common to see on the public highway, a collection of almost every conceivable receptacle which could be used for the storage of refuse. True, the local authority may, by Statutory Notice, require the provision of a proper galvanised receptacle by either the tenant or the owner of the property - it is, however, within their power to supply to every house, as a direct charge on the rates, a satisfactory container of whatever size they may wish to have. This scheme could be provided at a cost of little more than a penny rate and would give a more hygienic and easier service to operate.

The Council do purchase galvanised dustbins of a heavy pattern for re-sale to owners and householders in the area.

Rodent Control

A Rodent Operative is employed in the search for rats and the treatment of infestations found. In order to encourage the notification of rat infestation by owners or occupiers of private dwellings, the Council provide a free service. The Ministry of Agriculture contributes a 50% grant towards the cost of the treatment of sewers and private dwellings. A charge covering the whole of the cost, plus 20% for administrative purposes, was made for the work done on business premises.

At the request of the Ministry of Agriculture, a survey was made of all the farms in the area in 1953 and, during 1956, 100 farms were inspected. In few instances were there any serious infestations and the farmers were approached by the County Agricultural Committee with a view to arrangements being made for treatment.

Test baiting of sewers was carried out on instructions from the Ministry of Agriculture. This involved test baiting only 10% of the manholes in the area, compared with a treatment of all manholes as previously undertaken. It will be seen from previous reports that there are about 270 manholes in the area and about half of these have never been and are unlikely to become infested by rats. The remaining half are frequently infested, but with test baiting only a proportion of all manholes are covered. It would, therefore, be possible for some manholes to miss treatment for several years, during which time they could become seriously infested.

As in previous years, the only locality where sewers are badly infested is Cherry Tree. This is, no doubt, caused by old sewers, the proximity of the canal and industrial establishments. The banks of the Leeds and Liverpool canal had again become infested and a treatment was carried out.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

18 licences were renewed during the year for individual caravans, although there are still quite a number of hutments in the area which are not yet licensed. These huts have, in most cases, been in the area for 20 years or more.

There are 2 licensed camping sites in the area, providing accommodation for a total of 75 caravans. Site standards have been adopted by the Council, requiring the provision of proper drainage, water supply and other communal facilities.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION AT SCHOOLS

There are 12 schools in the area and 11 of these have a public mains supply of water. 3 of the schools are not connected to the sewers, and, consequently, the sanitary accommodation comprises pail-closets. Billington School has an antiquated system of trough closets, which discharge into a catch-pit, but I am pleased to record that, after repeated requests, works are now in hand for the erection of modern toilets.

There is a real need for the improvement of sanitary conveniences and washing facilities at most schools in the area. It is essential that this accommodation should be as near perfection as possible, as it is during school life that a child can be trained and guided in the forming of good habits.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

There are 12 factory chimneys in the area and in only 2 cases can complaint be made regarding excessive smoke emission.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Sampling

13 samples of milk were taken from retailers in the area and in 5 cases were the results unsatisfactory. 13 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, to detect tuberculosis, and all were reported negative.

Ice-Cream

There are 30 retailers premises on the Council's register. 13 samples of ice-cream were taken from retailers and all were satisfactory.

Meat Inspection

All animals slaughtered for human consumption are inspected. Most of these were killed at a licensed Slaughter-house, which is attached to the farm buildings of an Institution within the district.

Other Food Preparing Premises

Priority of inspection has always been given to the preparation and handling of meat, ice-cream and milk. In the past, few improvements have been made at restaurant kitchens and wayside cafes, because legislation was most inadequate. The introduction of Byelaws to secure clean handling, wrapping and delivery of food was the first step towards tackling the problem of clean food, and, during the year 1956, the Food Hygiene Regulations came into effect.

The most unsatisfactory food premises were the first to be dealt with under the Regulations. 3 small Bakehouses were voluntarily closed down, because they were unsuitable for modernisation. A small number of Grocers carried out extensive alterations to their shops.

This action was followed by a survey of the 'wash-up' kitchens at all schools where meals were served. In all cases, conditions were unsatisfactory, and, although the Education Authorities and School Managers were asked to carry out improvements, at no school has any improvement been made.

After 12 months operation of the Regulations, it is quite evident that many authorities interpret them differently and there is a real need for their clarification.

It is most difficult for a small authority to secure the necessary improvements to all its food shops within 12 months, and I feel that better results will be obtained in the long run by tackling a few shops at a time and using the example set by one proprietor as a means to secure improvement in others.

Number of food premises, by type of business, in the district:-

General Grocers and Provision Dealers	45
Greengrocers (including those selling wet fish)	3
Fishmongers	-
Meat Shops	8
Bakers	9
Fried Fish Shops	2
Shops selling mainly Sugar Confectionary, etc.	2
Licensed Premises, Canteens, Cafes, etc.	54

NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS MADE DURING
THE YEAR IN CONNECTION WITH SANITARY
AND OTHER WORK

Inspections under the Public Health Act	205
Inspections under the Housing Acts	216
Inspections and re-visits to Moveable Dwellings	64
Visits to Infectious Disease Cases	37
Rooms Disinfected	6
Inspections of Dairies and Milk Sampling	22
Inspections of Slaughter-houses	41
Inspections of Meat Shops	20
Inspections of Bakehouses	15
Inspections of Provisions Shops	47
Inspections of Fried Fish Shops	2
Inspections of Ice-Cream Premises	34
Inspections of Restaurant Kitchens	43
Inspections of Licensed Premises	22
Inspections of Factories (other than Bakehouses)	37
Inspections of Schools	17
Inspections in connection with School Meals Service	12
Inspections in connection with Scavenging Schemes	615
Inspections of Drains	316
Inspections in connection with Water Supplies	81
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	20
Inspections under Petroleum Acts	48
Inspections in connection with Rodent Control	428
Smoke Observations	7
Inspections under Pet Animals Act	3
Other Visits interviewing Owners, etc.	183
Total	2541

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	-	24	47	138	39
Number inspected	-	24	47	138	39
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	1	4	1	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	5	4	33	15
Percentage diseased other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	-	25%	17%	24%	41%
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>	No evidence found.				

HOUSING INSPECTIONS

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1) (a) Total no. of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	140
(b) No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	324
(2) Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:	
(a) No. found during year	157
(b) No. (or estimated no.) at end of year	259
(3) No. of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	68

2. Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954):-

(1) No. of dwelling-houses demolished during the year:	
(a) Unfit houses	-
(b) Other houses	-
(2) No. of persons displaced	-

3. Houses not included in Clearance Areas:-

	No. of Houses Persons Displaced	
(1) Houses demolished or closed during year:		
(a) Housing Act, 1936 -		
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11)	2	6
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force	5	3
(iii) Parts of building closed (Section 12)	-	-
(b) Housing Act, 1949 -		
(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3(1) and 3(2)	-	-
(c) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 -		
(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10(1) and 11(2)	4	7
(2) Repairs during the year:		
(a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts		58
(b) Public Health Acts - action after service of formal notice - Houses in which defects were remedied -		
(i) By owners		2
(ii) By local authority in default of owners		-
(c) Housing Act, 1936 - action after service of formal notice (Sections 9,10,11 and 16)		
Houses made fit -		
(i) By owners		6
(ii) By local authority in default of owners		1
(d) Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954:		
Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5)		-

4. Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954):-

(1) No. of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7	-
(2) No. of separate dwellings contained in (1) above	-
(3) No. of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6)	-

HOUSING ACT, 1936 : PARTS II AND III

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954 : SECTION 1

Required Form of Proposals

Local authority.....BLACKBURN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.....

County.....LANCASTER.....

Total number of permanent dwellings in the local authority's area..3818

Part 1. The total problem

(i) Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and suitable for action under section 11 or section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936270

(ii) Period in years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all the houses in (i)10

Part 2. Orders already made, etc.

(iii) Number of houses in (i) in clearance areas and already covered by operative clearance or compulsory purchase orders or owned by the local authorityNIL

(iv) Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders have been submitted to the Minister but have not yet become operativeNIL

Part 3. Action in the first five years

(v) Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders are to be made or which are to be purchased by agreement within the five yearsNIL

(vi) Number of houses which are to be included in clearance areas still to be declared and which within the five years will be owned by the local authority or will have been included in a clearance order or a compulsory purchase order submitted to the Minister59

(vii) Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be patched (if necessary) and retained within the five years under section 2 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, for temporary accommodationNIL

(viii) Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be demolished in the five years59

(ix) Number of houses (including those already comprised in operative demolition orders) to be demolished in the five years as a result of action under section 11 of the Housing Act, 193652

WATER SUPPLIES

Parish	From Public Mains		From Private Supplies	
	Direct to houses		e.g. wells, springs etc.	
	No. of dwelling-houses	No. of population	No. of dwelling-houses	No. of population
1. Balderstone	83	249	34	102
2. Billington	664	4014	90	270
3. Clayton-le-Dale	186	513	21	63
4. Dinckley	22	66	4	12
5. Eccleshill	123	335	9	27
6. Livesey	814	2363	94	282
7. Mellor	382	1182	57	171
8. Osbaldeston	50	147	10	30
9. Pleasington	124	372	53	159
10. Ramsgreave	248	721	41	123
11. Salesbury	110	337	9	27
12. Tockholes	-	-	140	420
13. Wilpshire	358	1221	25	75
14. Yate & Pickup Bank	30	90	83	249
Total -				
Whole District	3194	11610	670	2010

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION IN THE DISTRICT

Privy Middens	Nil
Pail-Closets	478
Ash-pits	Nil
No. of Premises with Fresh Water Closets	3435
No. of Houses with Waste Water Closets	60
No. of Houses with Moveable Ashbins	3545
Pail Closets converted into Fresh Water Closets	25

RODENT CONTROL

Sewer Maintenance Treatments

First Half Year - 1956

(Zinc Phosphide and Sausage Rusk)

54 manholes baited

10 manholes showing prebait take

7 manholes showing complete take

Second Half Year - 1956

(Arsenic and Bread Mash)

55 manholes baited

10 manholes showing prebait take

9 manholes showing complete take

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Report for the Year ending 31st March, 1957

	Local Authority Properties	Dwelling- houses	Agricul- tural Premises	Business Premises	Totals
No. of properties in District	37	3,554	352	236	4,179
No. of properties inspected					
(a) As a result of complaint	-	53	-	-	53
(b) Routine inspections	24	31	100	10	165
Total inspections and routine visits	67	141	124	42	374
No. found infested by rats					
(a) Major infestation	-	1	2	1	4
(b) Minor infestation	18	40	10	5	73
No. found infested by mice	2	14	-	2	18
No. of infested premises treated by Council	20	54	3	8	85
Total No. of treatments carried out	30	54	3	19	106

Public Cleansing

The following figures summarise the amount of refuse collected by direct labour and contractors during the year:-

<u>Visits to Premises</u>	<u>Pans Emptied</u>	<u>Bins Emptied</u>	<u>Loads</u>	<u>T.</u>	<u>C.</u>	<u>Q.</u>
180,303	27,360	152,943	1,861	4,606	11	1

Salvage

The following weights of salvaged materials were collected and sold during the year:-

<u>Materials</u>	<u>Quantity</u>				<u>Value</u>		
	<u>T.</u>	<u>C.</u>	<u>Q.</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>s.</u>	<u>d.</u>
Paper	139	7	1	-	1,236	13	10
Kitchen Waste	41	5	-	-	165	1	10
Textiles	5	6	2	11	131	7	9
Non-Ferrous Metals	-	16	1	22	97	17	3
Scrap Iron	125	-	1	-	665	7	-
Carriage on Paper					64	17	1
Carriage on Kitchen Waste					19	12	6
Total	311	15	2	5	£2,380	17	3
Profit on Dustbins for the Year					39	1	9
	311	15	2	5	£2,419	19	-

Emptying of Cesspools & Septic Tanks

<u>No. of Loads</u>	<u>No. of Gallons</u>	<u>Revenue</u>		
		<u>£</u>	<u>s.</u>	<u>d.</u>
54	32,400	82	10	-

TONNAGE AND REVENUE FROM SALVAGE COLLECTED BY
BLACKBURN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL CLEANSING DEPARTMENT

SALVAGE	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Waste Paper	47	51	50	59	72	86	108	90	115	116	126	139
Kitchen Waste	44	46	56	58	59	56	58	53	49	53	48	41
Rags	7	6	4½	4	4	4	8	6	6	6	6	5
Non-Ferrous Metals	¼	¼	¼	¼	¼	¼	¼	½	½	1	1	1
Scrap Iron	-	5	2	3	-	-	39	51	70	91	103	126
Jam Jars	3	3	3	4	-	2½	4	3	1	-	-	-
TOTALS	101¼	111¼	115¾	128¼	135¼	149	217½	203½	241½	267	284	312
REVENUE	£536	£632	£652	£705	£745	£950	£2,600	£1,717	£1,508	£1,821	£2,136	£2,373

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1956 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF BLACKBURN IN THE COUNTY OF LANCASTER

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937

1. - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	6	4	2	-	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	38	48	2	-	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	3	3	-	-	3
Total		47	55	4	-	

2. - CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were in- stituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspec- tor (5)	By H.M. Inspec- tor (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	3	3	-	-	-	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	-	-	-	-	-	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	-	-	-	-	-	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	-	-	-	-	-	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)-							
(a) Insufficient	9	1	-	-	-	-	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	2	2	-	-	-	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	-	-	-	-	-	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	-	-	-	-	-	12
Total	60	6	5	-	-	-	60

